



Santiago Ramon y Cajal, Neurons (1906)

## **Philosophy of Mind (PHI 133)**

Summer 2019

Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 12:30pm  
in J Baskin Engineering 372

### **Instructor:**

Jordan Dopkins

[jdopkins@ucsc.edu](mailto:jdopkins@ucsc.edu)

Office: Hum 1, rm 115

Office Hours: Tuesday 1pm-3pm or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

In this course, we will look at philosophical issues related to the nature of perception, cognition, and consciousness. We will draw on classic and contemporary contributions from the disciplines of psychology, cognitive science, and neuroscience. Can there be a science of the mind? Could machines be conscious? How did the mind evolve? These and a host of related questions form the subject matter of this course.

### **Required Texts:**

There is one required text for the course,

*Philosophy of Mind* by Jaegwon Kim, 3rd edition. Routledge 2010. The book is available at the Bay Tree Book store.

All other readings will be made available as PDFs on the course Canvas site. You may also find the following free ebooks helpful when writing your papers and forum posts:

*Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper*. Pryor, Jim. 2016.  
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

*A Rulebook for Arguments*. Weston, Anthony. Hackett Publishing Co.(Indianapolis) 2000.  
<http://books.google.com/books?id=FtRN5QKMBnEC>

### **Course Requirements:**

Midterm Paper (20% of final grade) and Final Paper (30% of final grade)

For the midterm and final paper, you must write a 1500 word paper. This is not a research paper. It is an argumentative paper, and you will be expected to (1) reproduce arguments and (2) technically engage with those arguments. I will say more about this when I assign the prompts. I will assign the prompts one week before the paper is due. 12 point Times New Roman or Helvetica fonts. Double Spaced. You may not use outside sources, and so, you will not need a reference page. Please include parenthetical citations to the course readings that include the author's name and the page number.

Example: "Several years have now elapsed since I first became aware that I had accepted, even from my youth, many false opinions for true ..." (Descartes. P.1).

Discussion Forum Contributions (30% of final grade)

You must contribute a thoughtful, original post to the discussion forum on Canvas every week. You may write on any topic, argument, or example from the readings or lecture that you found interesting. You may even relate it to other things you have learned, read about, or watched/seen/listened to in popular media (however, you **must** relate it to course material). Each Discussion forum post should be at least 200 words. Failure to write 200 words will result in a failing grade for that Discussion forum post. Discussion forum posts are graded on a 100 point scale. You must include citations for any outside material you use. Discussion forum posts are due at 11:59pm on Thursday each week (including week one).

I will provide some suggestions for topic each week.

Your discussion forum posts are made public to the class. Please make sure they are well written and well thought out so that you can impress your instructors and colleagues.

Reading Quizzes (20% of final grade)

At the beginning of each class there will be a multiple choice quiz based on the readings assigned for that class. The quizzes are very easy, and are designed to make sure students have read the material. Only the seven highest reading quiz grades will count towards the final grade (the two lowest scores will be dropped). There are no makeups on the reading quizzes.

**Grading Scale:**

100-97 = A+  
96-93 = A  
92-90 = A-  
89-87 = B+  
83-86 = B  
80-82 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
73-76 = C  
70-72 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
63-66 = D  
60-62 = D-  
50-60 = F

**Course Policies:**

Late assignments and make-up tests are not allowed, except for documented emergencies/ illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify the instructor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor. Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate. Because substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or class discussion. When sending an email include “PHIL 133” in the subject line.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course! If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the session. The sooner you let me know your situation, the sooner I can assist you. Contact DRC at 831- 459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).

For more information please visit UCSC’s Disability Resource Center homepage: <http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml> .

You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on academic honesty (<http://>

[www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/index.html](http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html)). Remember that I forbid the use of outside sources in your midterm paper and final paper.

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office, the online reporting link, applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at [titleix.ucsc.edu](http://titleix.ucsc.edu).

The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the online reporting option, you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.

### **Reading Schedule:**

\*tentative to change. I will be adding readings for 8/15, and I might add an additional one for 8/8.

#### **Week one: Introduction and Substance Dualism**

7/30:

Clark, Andy. *Mindware* Introduction

Kind, Amy. "The Mind-Body Problem through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"

8/2:

Hart, W.D. *Engines of the Soul*

Armstrong, Walter-Sinnot. "A Difficulty for any Non-Materialist Theory of Mind"

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*. Ch.1&2

#### **Week two: Behaviorism**

8/6:

C.G. Hempel. "The Logical Analysis of Psychology"

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*. Ch.3

8/8:

Dennett, Daniel. "Heterophenomenology Explained"

#### **Week three: Identity Theory and Multiple Realization**

8/13:

Place, U.T. "Is Consciousness a Brain Process?"

Smart, J.J.C. "Sensations and Brain Processes"

Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*. Ch.4

8/15:

Shapiro, Lawrence and Polger, Thomas excerpts from *The Multiple Realization Book*  
Godfrey-Smith, Peter. "The Mind of an Octopus"

#### **Week four: Functionalism and the Language of Thought**

8/20:

Turing, Alan. "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"  
Fodor, Jerry. *The Language of Thought, First Approximations*. Ch.1  
Kim, Jaegwon. *Philosophy of Mind*. Ch.5

8/22:

No new readings (just keep working on the Fodor and Turing articles)

#### **Week five: Criticisms of Functionalism and Beyond**

8/27:

Stephan, Harnad. "The Symbol Grounding Problem"  
Block, Ned. "Troubles with Functionalism"  
Kind, Amy. "Nagel's What is it Like to be a Bat Argument against Physicalism"

8/29:

Akins, Kathleen. "Of Sensory Systems and the Aboutness of Mental States"  
Clark, Andy. *Mindware*. Ch.4

#### **Assignment Schedule:**

Forum posts are due at 11:59pm on Thursday each week.

The Midterm paper is due on the Friday of week three. It must be submitted by 11:59 on 8/16

The Final paper is due by Sunday of the last weekend of class. It must be submitted by 11:59 on 9/1.